

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

There is nothing like paying tribute to the people who work hard every day to make our government tick. In fact, in the past four years we've not only made it tick more efficiently—we're making great strides toward improving government services and serving District of Columbia citizens.

This year, the **2002 Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Awards for Distinguished DC Government Employees** went to five dedicated employees who do everything from grief counseling and contamination inspection to building engineering. Talk about an eclectic group of awardees!

The individuals honored by these awards consistently strive to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in the District. The dedication and commitment of these remarkable honorees personifies the spirit of innovation and collaboration that makes our city great.

The five winners were selected from a citywide competition of 234 nominees. I'm proud to say that the number of nominations has increased by 50 percent since the program started three years ago. I'd like to thank DC Agenda, the non-profit group that organized the awards.

Managers and colleagues should see these Cafritz winners and finalists as role models and mentors who promote what is good about District government personnel. Next year, we look forward to more supervisors and colleagues nominating more District employees who qualify.

This year's awardees are:

Phyllis Anderson, Board of Education Liaison, DC Public Schools; Inspector Joshua Ederheimer, Director, Civil Rights and Force Investigations Divisions, Metropolitan Police Department; Benjamin McCottry, Administrator for Special Programs, DC Parks and Recreation; Herman Rorie, Chief Engineer, Horace Mann Elementary School; and Dr. Venkataiah Sreenivas, Deputy Bureau Chief for hazardous materials and toxic substances at the District's Department of Health.

On a similar subject, we also recently observed **Customer Service Week in the District of Columbia**, our second annual observance of National Customer Service Week. As public servants, we are charged with the difficult task of serving the diverse but basic needs of the District's citizens.

By making the choice to be government employees, we must meet and exceed the challenge to provide efficient and effective government. The group of awardees that we recognized during Customer Service Week did just that. I am extremely proud of all of the award recipients and their efforts to help realize the city's vision for customer service.

The awardees are:

Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications:
Marcella Hicks

Department of Health
Antoinette Stokes
Yvonne Briscoe-Hall

Department of Human Services:
Leah Burris

Citywide Call Center:
Travis Dupree

Department of Corrections:
Terrance Wilson
Patricia Nash

Office of Contracting and Procurement:

Rosalia Rojas
Adelia Johnson
Claudette Meyers
Mary Ann Harris
Denise Joyner
Clark Pleasants
Jeanne Sheridan
John Shepherd
Alice Overton
Josette Mercer
Darnice Wright
Diane H. Szego
Patricia Brown
Christian C. Nwachukwu



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

Fire Prevention Week

America's fire death rate is one of the highest per capita in the industrialized world. Fires in the United States kill over 4,000 people and injure more than 23,000 people each year. These are only a few of the reasons that citizens of the District of Columbia need to make sure they are prepared in the event of a fire.

Our hardworking firefighters, meanwhile, pay a high price for fire accidents. Roughly 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year in the United States. Direct property losses due to fire exceed \$8.5 billion a year. Most of these deaths and losses can be prevented, and we all must work harder to reach that end.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 51 percent of house fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms, and 30 percent of homes have smoke alarms that are inoperable due to dead or missing batteries. That's why it's so important for everyone to make sure their fire detectors are in tip top shape. We can all work harder to make sure our homes are fire safe. It could save your life.

The good news is that fire prevention techniques are working in our city. From September 2001 through last month, the District had 10 fire deaths. One of those was in a building without a working smoke detector. Last year, during the same period, we had 12 fire deaths, but eight of them were in buildings without working smoke detectors.

This month, during Fire Prevention Week, I signed a proclamation naming the week of October 6—12 "Fire Prevention Week" in Washington, DC. This makes it official, and I call upon all residents to join me in recognizing this national week and in doing everything we can, locally, to prevent fires.

At the same time, I urge parents to talk to their kids about fire. Find out what your kids already know about fire. Create and practice an escape plan at home; and, again—as always—install smoke alarms in your house or apartment.

If you need a donated smoke alarm, please call (202) 727-1614.

Community Profile

Kima Joy Taylor, MD

As a pediatrician at the Upper Cardozo Health Center working with marginalized populations, Kima Taylor has already dedicated her life to service. Kima's altruism reaches beyond her work, though. While identifying the health care disparities in deprived communities, she recognized another pressing issue: illiteracy. She found a way to incorporate illiteracy issues into her primary health care regime by establishing a Born-to-Read program at her clinic—an effort to distribute books to the impoverished children she treated.

Shortly after establishing her own literacy program, Kima learned about Reach Out and Read (ROR), a national, non-profit organization that promotes early literacy by making books a routine part of pediatric care. During each well-child visit, pediatricians who participate in the program distribute books, emphasizing to parents the importance of reading for brain development and academic excellence. She applied for and received a startup grant from Reach Out and Read for her clinic.

Kima's enthusiasm and fervor led to the expansion of the program. She learned of other such literacy programs in the District and recognized that by forming a coalition, the operators of each site could secure more funding and have a more successful outreach program. Consequently, she established the Metropolitan DC Coalition for ROR. The coalition has grown to include 14 sites around the District.

Kima utilizes her service activities, however, not just to promote literacy. She incorporates diversity issues into the program as a platform to increase racial tolerance. She sees "each child as an opportunity to make a difference."

Dr. Kima Taylor, a resident of the Adams Morgan neighborhood, is the October winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award.



Kima Joy Taylor, MD



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

One Hundred Years....And Then Some

Imagine living more than 100 years! People 100 years or older today have seen the advent of the automobile, the stock market crash of 1929, World Wars I and II, Elvis, the landing of a man on the Moon, and the invention of the Internet.

Well, just as we do every year, we honored these folks this month at the 16th Annual Centenarian Salute, an event that recognizes District citizens who have reached 100 years of age and beyond.

The Office on Aging, the Historical Society of Washington, and the United Planning Organization presents the Centenarian Salute, which has an audience of about 100 family, friends, and care providers.



Mayor Williams and his mother salute centenarians.

Now, consider some fun facts about this year's group of centenarians:

- Fifteen of the 113 centenarians registered with the Office on Aging are men.
- January and September are the most popular months for birthdays, and Capricorn and Libra are the most popular signs of the zodiac.
- The oldest living centenarian registered is Sgt. Mark Matthews, 108 years old and a Buffalo Soldier.
- Ward 3 has the highest number of centenarians — 30.
- Williams is the most common last name.
- Mary is the most common female first name.
- Fifty three percent of the centenarians live alone or with relatives. The city is providing in-home and caregiver support to many of them.
- Past occupations of the centenarians include Buffalo Soldier, insurance salesman, nurse, and teacher.

These people are "the greatest generation," and it is our privilege to honor them. My mother reminds me daily that healthy aging is not only possible, but it is also something to celebrate. So, we celebrate all of our centenarians, and may they have happy years ahead.

First District Government Latino Day

Earlier this week, I joined a host of other city leaders and citizens to celebrate DC Government Latino Day in the District of Columbia. This was not only a great time to gather as a community, but an important one as well.

During my administration, I have placed great emphasis on the inclusion of all residents in our government. Latino community leaders, meanwhile, have worked for more than three decades with the District of Columbia government to provide better services to Latino residents.

In this spirit, our city's Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) is empowered to work together with my office and my cabinet to increase access to District services for Latino residents in all areas. We've put special emphasis on education, health, housing, and employment.

We've made some strides. However, we have a long way to go; and we have some hard work ahead of us. OLA is my key link to the Latino population in this city. OLA works closely with District agencies to improve access to services and resources within the DC government.

I also want to note the progress our Metropolitan Police Department has made in the community, with its Latino Liaison Unit and a recruiting campaign to bring aboard more bilingual officers.

I am very concerned about the welfare of all the District's citizens. We have an amazing city here, filled with diversity and so many ethnic backgrounds. Together we can achieve our dream of "One City, One Future."

On October 5, I signed a proclamation declaring October 5, 2002, as "DC Government Latino Day" in Washington, DC, and I called upon all the residents of this great city to join me in this celebration of cultural diversity.



Cutting Teen Pregnancy

This month, we proudly announced that our Department of Human Services' Income Maintenance Administration (IMA) received a \$19.8 million Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) bonus award from the federal government for reducing out-of-wedlock births in fiscal year 2002.

This brings the total federal bonus funds awarded to the District to \$91.1 million, making the District second only to California in total TANF bonus funds received. Join me in congratulating DHS for its innovative work and dedication to an important issue.

IMA has received four awards totaling \$79.8 million for out-of-wedlock birth reduction and two awards totaling \$7.3 million for welfare-to-work success. Additionally, the District is one of only three jurisdictions to receive the out-of-wedlock birth bonus in all four years that it has been awarded and one of 15 states receiving the welfare-to-work bonus the last two years.

I am pleased that we received this recognition of our success in administering our TANF program. Our comprehensive service delivery system that includes over 100 partners is a key reason why our Department of Human Services' Income Maintenance Administration has done so well. DHS realized it needed to take a creative approach to tackle some of the more difficult challenges facing low-income residents. Our employees should be commended for their success.

Among the more innovative strategies utilized within IMA is the provision of grants to community organizations, whose sole responsibility is to visit the homes of customers who have severe barriers to employment. In addition, 10 job placement providers have primary responsibility for helping customers find and retain high-paying jobs.

IMA also partners with other DC government agencies, community, and faith-based organizations to provide a wide range of services to prevent teen pregnancy. These efforts, which include in-school and out-of-school services and a media outreach campaign, have contributed to our successful reduction in out-of-wedlock births.

For more information about programs to prevent teen pregnancy, call Constance Wilcher at (202) 541-3909.

The Fright House - Extreme Scream Park

From October 17 to 31, the DC Sports & Entertainment Commission will present THE FRIGHT HOUSE—EXTREME SCREAM PARK! This brand new, multi-million dollar, live, interactive Halloween "Spooktacular" appears at the DC Armory for Halloween. The Fright House will accommodate up to 850 "victims" per hour for an unforgettable journey through 65,000 square feet of fear. Eight haunted attractions feature ghoulish live theatrical performances using more than 80 stage actors, bone chilling 3-D films with celebrity guest cameos, and awesome high tech special effects.

Call (202) 727-6770 to learn how to get your special DC Community Opening Fright Flyers, redeemable for \$9.50 tickets on Thursday, October 17. If you are a DC government employee, find out how you can save five dollars with your government ID during selected entry times. For complete event information and details on all special offers, go to www.thefrighthouse.com.

Who knew being terrified could be so much fun?

Nominate Artists for Mayor's Art Awards

Show your pride by nominating Washington artists for the most prestigious honor conferred by the city on individual artists, organizations, and patrons of the arts by submitting nominations for the **18th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards**. You may nominate in the following categories: *Excellence in an Artistic Discipline*, *Outstanding Emerging Artist*, *Excellence in Service to the Arts*, *Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education and Innovation in the Arts*. I will present the awards at an Academy-Awards style ceremony at the historic Lincoln Theater on Monday, December 9. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

You may obtain nomination forms in two ways:

1. Go to <http://dcarts.dc.gov> and download a form,
2. Call the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities at (202) 724-5614, and ask that a form be faxed or mailed to you.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, October, 18 at 5:30 pm.



District Activities



Mayor Williams joins young volunteers at the DC Aids Walk.



Mayor Williams greets attendees at the Anacostia River Coordinating Committee Boat Ride on Nina's Gandy.



Mayor Williams joins other city officials and Asian American community leaders in Chinatown for Chinese Heritage Day.

Community News

- [Court Monitor Finds District Child Welfare Agency Meets Performance Standards](#)
- [DC State Education Office Receives \\$4.6 M Federal Grant](#)
- [District Launches DC Municipal Aggregation Program](#)

[Click here](#) to view news releases.

Upcoming Events

10/12 thru 10/14	Taste of DC Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 7th and 14th Streets 11 am—6:30 pm daily
10/12	Brookland Festival 11 am 12th and Franklin Streets, NE
10/17	Utility Discount Day DC Convention Center 900 9th Street, NW 8 am—7 pm
10/17 thru 10/31	The Fright House-Extreme Scream Park DC Armory See website for details www.thefrighthouse.com
10/24	Fourth Annual Public Private Partnership Conference "Partnerships—Now More Than Ever" George Washington University Marvin Center 21st and H Streets, NW 8 am—4 pm

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

